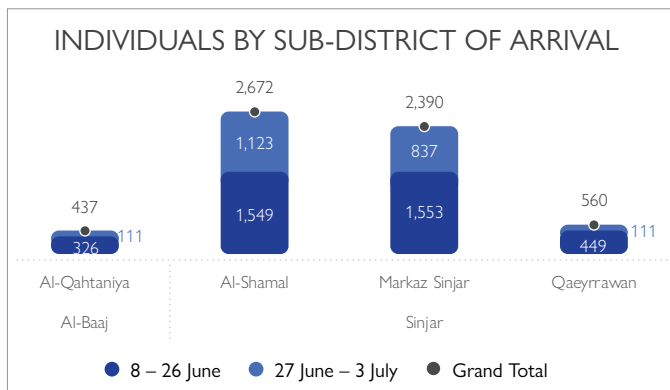
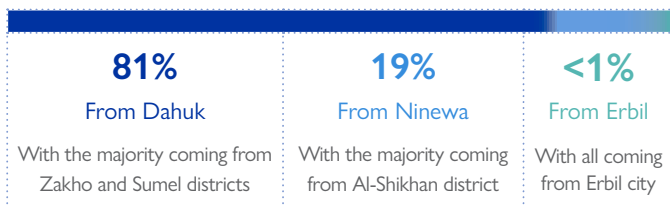
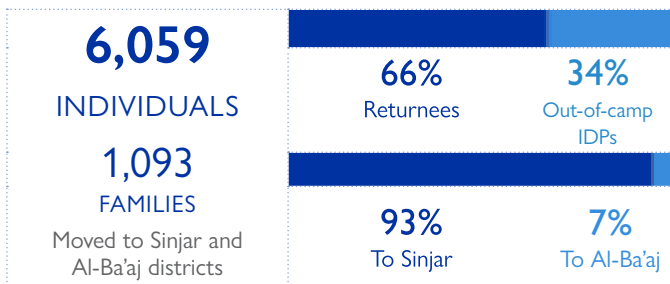


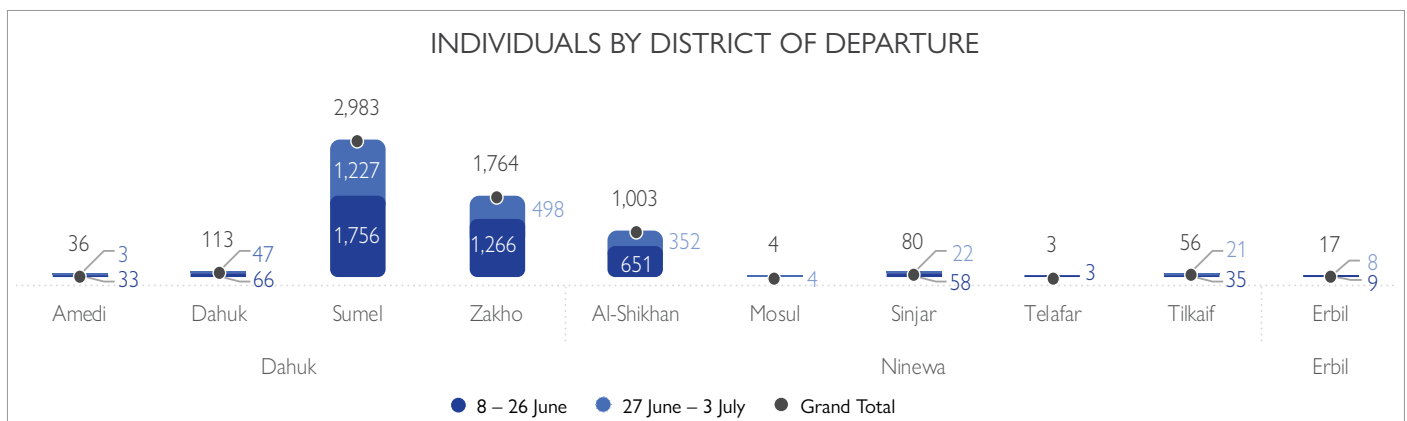
DISPLACEMENT AND RETURNS TO SINJAR AND AL-BA'AJ DISTRICTS

PERIOD COVERED:
8 JUNE – 3 JULY 2020

*All charts/graphs in this document show total figures for the period of 8 June to 3 July 2020, inclusively



Between 27 June and 3 July, a total of 1,775 individuals were recorded as having departed from Dahuk governorate (81%)—especially from Sumel and Zakho districts. Additionally, around one in five individuals (399) departed from Ninewa—especially from Al-Shikhan district (352 individuals), while a small number departed from Erbil (8). Since 8 June, most individuals have departed from the districts of Sumel (49%), Zakho (29%), and Al-Shikhan (17%).



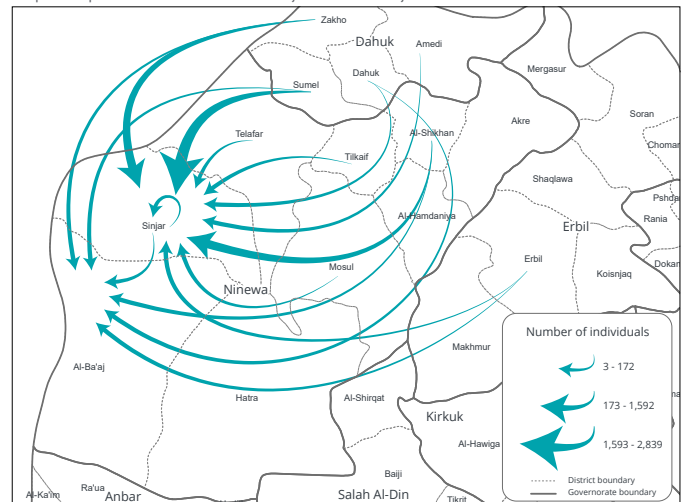
Between 27 June and 3 July 2020, DTM tracked 2,182 individuals (364 families) returning to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj districts in Iraq's Ninewa governorate. This brings the total number of individuals that have returned to these districts to 6,059 (1,010 families) since data collection commenced on 8 June.

Of those individuals who moved back between 27 June and 3 July, a total of 2,071 were recorded in Sinjar (95%) and 111 were recorded in Al-Ba'aj (5%)—broadly consistent with the rates of individuals' districts of arrival since 8 June.

The most common sub-district of arrival was Al-Shamal with 1,123 individuals (51%), followed by Markaz Sinjar with 837 individuals (38%). Together, these two sub-districts comprise 84% of all individuals recorded as having arrived to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj since data collection commenced on 8 June.

Of those individuals identified between 27 June and 3 July, 1,286 were recorded as returnees (59%), while 896 were recorded as out-of-camp IDPs (41%).

Map 1. Population Movements to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj districts

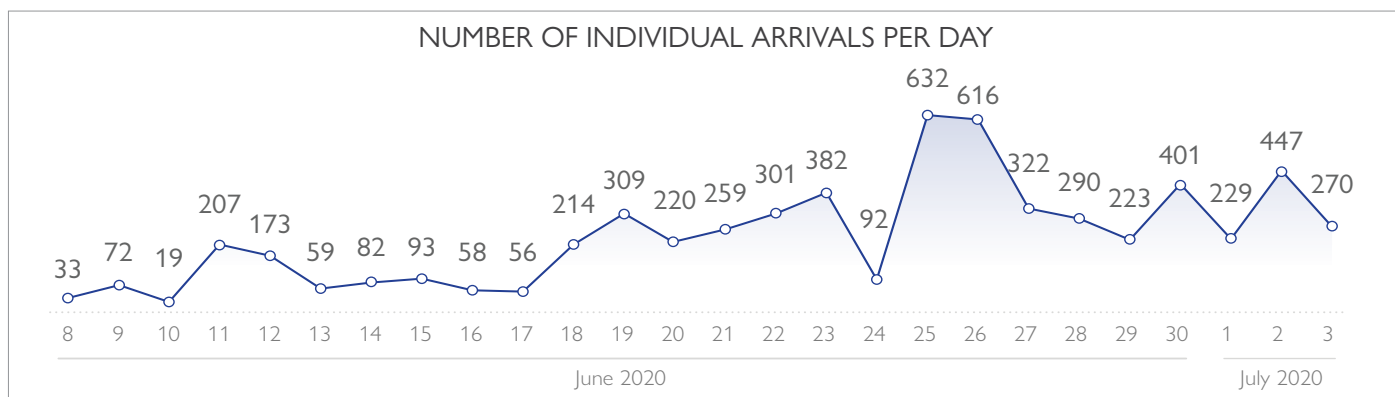
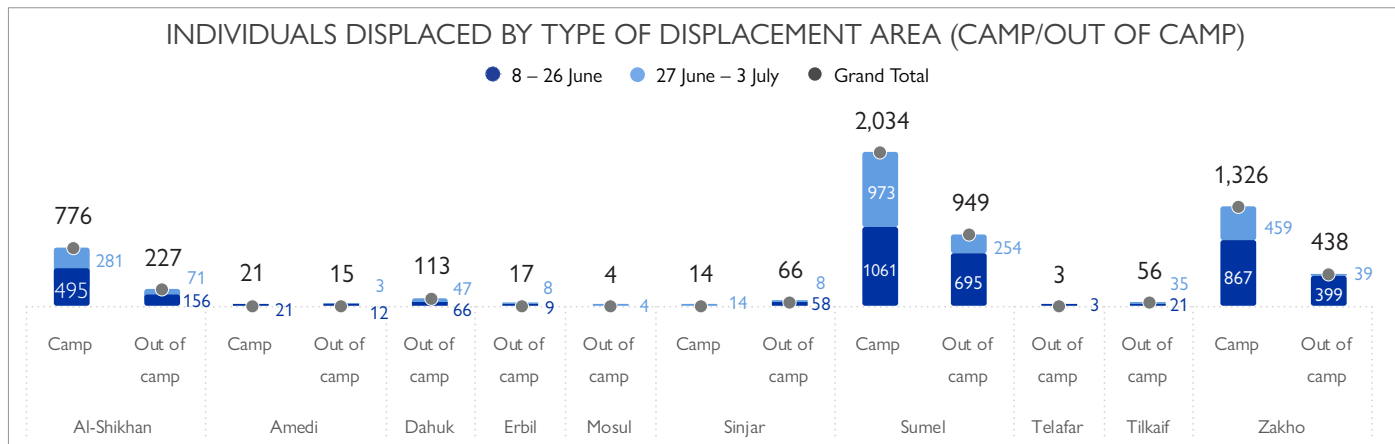


To provide an element of comparison and better understand the scale of these returns, note that for the reporting period of May-June 2019, DTM recorded 1,416 individuals returning to Sinjar (1,224 as returnees and 192 as IDPs) and 96 to Baaj (66 as returnees and 30 as IDPs).

Between 27 June and 3 July, of the 2,071 individuals that returned to Sinjar, 1,698 came from Dahuk, while 373 came from Ninewa. Additionally, of those individuals that returned to Al-Ba'aj, 77 came from Dahuk, 26 came from Ninewa, and 8 individuals (belonging to a single family) came from Erbil.

In addition, a total of 1,727 individuals were recorded as coming from camp settings (79%), while 455 individuals came from out-of-camp settings (21%). This represents a shift in the rates of individuals coming from different settings: since 8 June, a total of 4,171 individuals have arrived from camp

settings (69%), while 1,888 have arrived from out-of-camp settings (31%). In the districts that most individuals came from, the number of people coming from camp settings rose significantly between 27 June and 3 July, bringing Sumel district's total number to 2,034 (up from 1,061), Zakho's to 1,326 (up from 867), and Al-Shikhan's to 776 (up from 495). Significant numbers of individuals coming from out-of-camp settings have also been recorded, with Sumel's total at 949 (up from 695), and Zakho's total at 438 (up from 399).



ADDITIONAL ANECDOTAL NARRATIVE

Reasons for returns

- Reasons for IDPs going home to Sinjar include the improved security situation, the clearing of mines/IEDs, and the rehabilitation of public infrastructure. Mukhtars, local NGOs and returnees have also encouraged IDPs to return home.
- One of the push factors has been COVID-19, in that some families who had a member working in the area of origin and moving back and forth between Sinjar and an area of displacement could no longer move easily due to the movement restrictions, which then pushed the IDPs to return.

Assistance and registration

- It was reported that the Directorate of national security in Sinjar has established a feedback/ complaint /response mechanism in the form of a hotline to be used by the new returnees or IDPs willing to return to their areas of origin in Sinjar. The main purpose of the system is to enable the authorities to follow up on emerging issues/complaints, including but not limited to checkpoint related difficulties, as well as reports that some of the newly returned individuals occupy buildings that do not belong to them.

Shelter situation

- Many of the families that have returned to Shamal sub-district live in rented accommodation or with host families.

Border crossings

- On 1 July, the Suhaila bridge crossing between the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) and Ninewa governorate opened after an extended closure, and will remain open until further notice. The bridge is open from 8am to 4pm daily for people traveling out of KRI to Ninewa only, and is expected to influence an increase in returns of people to Al-Ba'aj and Sinjar districts.

Challenges faced by returnees

- Debris removal has been noted as an obstacle to return, given the large scale destruction that was witnessed in Sinjar.
- MOMD have been providing transportation to return in some cases, but this only includes transportation of the IDPs themselves and not their belongings. As a result the IDPs have to hire a car to transport their belongings.
- There are reports of individuals having returned to areas with limited basic services such as healthcare, markets, water, and electricity and having not received assistance. Some of these locations had not witnessed any returns before.